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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ramaz KATSARAVA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1615

Application Number: 09/757,704

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: January 11, 2001

For: POLYMER BLENDS AS BIODEGRADABLE MATRICES FOR PREPARING  
BIOCOMPOSITES

9/Pre A

Bel

1-12-03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATTN: BOX MISSING PARTS

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 6, 7, 9, and 17, with the following claims, and add new claims 18-23 provided in a clean format in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A marked-up version of the claims, showing the changes Applicants have made are in Appendix A.

1. (Amended) A bioerodable construct for controlled release of bioactive materials, said construct comprising a blend of two or more poly(ester-amide) polymers (PEA) prepared by polymerizing a diol (D), a dicarboxylic acid (C) and an alpha-amino acid (A) through ester and amide links in the form (DACA)<sub>n</sub>.

wherein the PEA polymer has the formula:

